

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**

**THE WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – STAKEHOLDERS  
FORUM**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the above held on Thursday, 7th October, 2021  
at 9.30 am on Zoom**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Kunes (Chair)	-	Borough Councillor
Dave Robson	-	Borough Council
Peter Jermay	-	Borough Council
Councillor Bower	-	Borough Councillor
Councillor Devereux	-	Borough Councillor
Jim Scott	-	RSPB
Victoria Wight	-	Natural England
Adrian Winnington	-	Hunstanton Town Council
Caroline Laburn	-	Water Management Alliance
Catherine Harries	-	Environment Agency
Terry Clay	-	Heacham Parish Council
Michael Williamson	-	Heacham Parish Council
Paul Bland	-	Heacham South Beach Owners Assoc
Councillor Bob Lawton	-	Borough Councillor
Michael Ruston	-	Hunstanton Chamber of Trade

**APOLOGIES:**

David Norman	-	Heacham North Beach Owners Assoc
Rob Wise	-	NFU
Gemma Clark	-	Norfolk Coast Partnership
Derrick Lloyd	-	J & J Wilson and L & J Leisure
Councillor Stuart Dark	-	Borough Councillor
Georgie Sutton	-	MMO
Adele Powell	-	Marine Partnership
Will Fletcher	-	Historic England
James Albone	-	Historic England
Lorraine Gore	-	Borough Council

		<b><u>ACTION</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b><u>INTRODUCTION</u></b>  Councillor Kunes opened the meeting and those present introduced themselves.	
<b>2</b>	<b><u>MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></b>	

	<p>The notes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b></p> <p><u>Local Plan – Policy DM18</u></p> <p>Those present were informed that Policy DM18 had been out for consultation as part of the Local Plan Review. Representations made were being considered and then the Local Plan would move to the Examination Stage and DM18, which would become LP15 in the new Local Plan would be considered as part of this examination.</p> <p>Michael Ruston referred to a recent Planning Application relating to extending residency which had been refused and felt that this was illogical, especially as the application in question formed part of a terrace.</p> <p><u>Removal of Sand Dunes</u></p> <p>Those present were reminded that at the previous meeting concerns had been raised about some residents removing material from sand dunes to improve their access. Catherine Harries explained that an increased level of monitoring had taken place in this area and the results of the latest survey were awaited. As a last resort, enforcement action could be taken.</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b><u>FUNDING GROUP UPDATE</u></b></p> <p>Dave Robson explained that the Funding Group was in place for Unit C and was made up from funding partners which included the CIC, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and the Borough Council.</p> <p>It was explained that the EA had set up a 15 year programme for Defence Grant in Aid funding. Local Contributions from the partners were also included and funds were available to carry out recycling work.</p> <p>A separate meeting was held in June to discuss funding for the recharge work for when it was required. The recharge work would be a separate funding bid but measures were in place to cover this work.</p> <p>Catherine Harries provided detail on the annual recycling work and explained that material was taken from Snettisham and transferred to areas which had suffered loss. When there was no longer any material available then a recharge would need to be considered. The recharge work was currently scheduled to take place in 2023/2024</p>	

	<p>and work was already commencing to source material and the specialist plant equipment that would be required. It was explained that a donor site was still to be finalised, but it was likely to be off shore. It was also explained that because of the designations of The Wash, certain approvals and surveys also needed to be carried out in advance.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the recharge work would take place at the same time of year as the recycling work; February/March, and that there would be a communications and engagement process in advance of the works commencing.</p> <p>Catherine Harries agreed to circulate information on the recharge process to the Group.</p> <p>Following the meeting, Mike McDonnell from the CIC provided an update on the CIC funds. The CIC now had £903,249 funds with another £24,000 expected in October from the land owners via the Internal Drainage Board.</p>	CH
5	<p><b><u>COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN</u></b></p> <p><u>Unit A – the Cliffs</u></p> <p>The Group was informed that a baseline report was available at <a href="#">Hunstanton Cliffs monitoring   Hunstanton Cliffs monitoring   Borough Council of King's Lynn &amp; West Norfolk (west-norfolk.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>The report showed that the regression was happening at the normal rate and currently the plan was no active intervention until there was a threat to the road. The likely intervention at that point would be rock armour at the base of the cliffs.</p> <p>Discussions were also ongoing with Hunstanton Sailing Club regarding surface erosion to the Cliffs behind the club and options were being considered.</p> <p><u>Unit B – Promenade</u></p> <p>Repairs to the groynes, facing blocks and surface repairs had been carried out. A joint EA/BCKLWN study on the effectiveness and condition of the groynes from Hunstanton to Heacham was currently being prepared and the report on this was due in November.</p> <p>Further work in this area included The Wash Trends Report which was available at <a href="#">Channel Coastal Observatory Reports (coastalmonitoring.org)</a></p>	

	<p>The Group was also informed that a 4D radar trial was ongoing which would be used to map the seabed. The first report from this was due in December/January.</p> <p>The Group discussed the difficulty in monitoring The Wash, especially as it was so shallow in some areas. Councillor Kunes reported that the Conservancy Board had some equipment available for monitoring shallow waters.</p> <p>Dave Robson explained that the Coastal Community Team would also have the opportunity to be involved in the promenade works and the wider area in the future.</p> <p><u>Unit C</u></p> <p>Catherine Harries explained that the Groynes study would also cover Unit C and plans were ongoing for the next round of recycling works in January/February. It was also reported that the most recent Coastal Trends report had indicated that Unit C was stable at the moment.</p> <p>Councillor Devereux made reference to the nesting areas in Snettisham which had been cordoned off this year. Jim Scott from the RSPB explained that there had been some negative feedback from the public, but once engagement and communication work had been carried out, they had been more understanding.</p> <p>The re-wilding of Ken Hill was also discussed and it was noted that it had brought more visitors to the area.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p><u>Shoreline Management Plan</u></p> <p>Catherine Harries informed the Group that work was ongoing to refresh all Shoreline Management Plans. This was a national piece of work and completion was due in 2023. One of the key outputs was that an online mapping tool would be available which would show details of short, medium and long term plans for each area.</p> <p>A similar group to WECMS was to be set up for the remainder of The Wash coastline, this would operate in a similar way and include partners from Lincs.</p> <p><u>LGA Coastal Special Interest Group</u></p> <p>Peter Jermany explained that this Group covered all English Coastal Authorities and covered issues such as water quality, water safety, coastal landfill and tourism.</p>	

	<p><u>East Anglian Coastal Group</u></p> <p>This Group covered from the Humber to the Thames and shared knowledge and best practice.</p> <p><u>Anglian Coastal Monitoring Group</u></p> <p>This Group covered from the Humber to the Thames and involved beach profiling, radars, surveys and monitoring.</p> <p><u>RFCC</u></p> <p>Councillor Devereux made reference to the Future Fens study which was hosted by the Association of Drainage Authorities and was available to view at <a href="https://www.ada.org.uk/knowledge/future-fens/">https://www.ada.org.uk/knowledge/future-fens/</a></p> <p>He also provided information on the East Anglian Coastal Group and the National Coastal Forum. He explained that it was important to co-ordinate and collaborate with all organisations that covered The Wash.</p> <p><u>Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance</u></p> <p>Dave Robson explained that the coastal element of this work would focus on setting up a similar group for the remaining Norfolk coastline to include North Norfolk and Great Yarmouth and other partners.</p> <p><u>Water Quality at Heacham</u></p> <p>Michael Williamson explained that there was sometimes an overrun of the Treatment plant at Heacham, which had an impact on Water Quality. He felt that this was happening more frequently and had a detrimental impact on the area.</p> <p><u>Heacham River</u></p> <p>Terry Clay reported that the width of the River in Heacham, South from Jubilee Bridge had decreased because of vegetation. Caroline Laburn from the WMA agreed to liaise with Terry Clay on this issue.</p>	
7	<p><b><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>To be confirmed – March 2022.</p>	

**The meeting closed at 10.50 am**